

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 2007

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell
Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: S.B. 5 [The Delaware Regenerative Medicine Act]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B. 5 (The Delaware Regenerative Medicine Act). The purpose of this Act is to encourage and foster a responsible, ethical, and moral public policy toward the emerging science of regenerative medicine. Section 3004D establishes the Human Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee. SCPD appreciates that the sponsors of the bill have included a member of the Delaware Disabilities Community since stem cell research could potentially have a critical impact on this population. SCPD is a cross disability Council that would be able to identify a highly qualified individual who would be able to represent a vast scope of disability related issues in this context.

SCPD endorses S.B. 5 since it holds great promise in health care for persons with disabilities. However, some individuals with disabilities may choose not to take advantage of the potential benefits of stem cell research. For many individuals, disability is part of their identity and they are proud of who they are. Therefore, Council believes that services for individuals with disabilities will continue to be needed and encourages Delaware not to always focus on “curing” an individual who may opt not to take advantage of the benefits that stem cell research may afford in the future.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position or recommendation on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

